

Armco, National Supply in Merger

Armco Steel Corp. of Middletown, Ohio, and the National Supply Co., Pittsburgh, Pa., will merge Wednesday under terms announced April 17 by R. L. Gray, president of Armco.

Announcement of the merger followed immediately after voting by stockholders of the respective companies. Shares

of Armco stock outstanding will be approximately 14,766,400, of which National Supply's 12,000 stockholders will become owners of roughly 2 1/2 million shares. Exchange of stock will be in the ratio of one share of National stock for 85 shares of Armco stock.

Companies Join

Armco President R. L. Gray, announcing merger of the two

companies, said, "The new corporate alliance will bring together two companies whose activities complement one another well. We believe that this merger will benefit customers, employees, stockholders, and the general public alike."

Armco is the seventh largest steel producer in the United States. With home offices in Middletown, Ohio, Armco operates nine steel plants in six states, conducts six other major operations including coal and iron mining, and has 50 subsidiary companies. It also owns 17 plants and warehouses in foreign countries and has 41 sales offices in the United States.

Armco's net sales in 1957 amounted to \$776,736,401.

Many Products

Its products are many and highly diversified. Steel and the products of steel include carbon, alloy, stainless sheet, strip and plate, stainless bar and wire, structurals, reinforcing bar, bolts, nuts, nails, wire products, pipe, tubing, pipe systems, prefabricated buildings, tanks, and steel for autos, planes and missiles.

As the National Supply Co., world's largest manufacturer of oil field machinery and equipment, becomes a subsidiary of the Armco Steel Corp., it brings to the corporate alliance seven manufacturing plants, including the Torrance facility, 131 field stores, and a world-wide distribution of drilling and production equipment. These stores are scattered throughout the United States and Canada, and with several in South America.

Oil Field Sales

Its oil field sales divisions include a Canadian division and an export division with subsidiary companies in Mexico and in Venezuela, South

America. National had net sales in 1957 in excess of \$300 million.

After effective date of merger, National Supply will conduct its business under that name and with substantially the same personnel.

Although National Supply was incorporated in 1894, the Torrance plant operation had its origin in another branch of the family, beginning about 1900. (This was also the year when Armco was founded).

At that time, a small company called the Union Oil Tool Co. was operating in Santa Paula and Los Angeles. This company, in 1908 merged with the American Engineering and Foundry Co. and took the name Union Tool Co. This was the first merger which was to be significant later to the Torrance plant, when in 1912 the company moved to its new site in Torrance.

Firms Merge

The second merger occurred in 1920 when the Union Tool Co. was absorbed by the National Supply Co. The Torrance plant had from its inception, played a vital role in the development of the drilling industry.

Now, with the parent company becoming allied with Armco, National's Torrance plant will play a part in the third merger in its 58 year history. The plant is generally conceded to be the largest completely integrated machinery manufacturing plant in the west.

While its principal products are oil field machinery and equipment, the plant also produces ordnance material, aircraft parts, and forgings, castings, and machinery for many industrial uses.

In its new alliance, management looks forward to a continuing growth of the Torrance plant.

Higgins Brick Major Supplier To Contractors

One of Torrance's most prolific industries probably was in the mind of an industrious bricklayer who came to California from Iowa in 1909. He was J. R. Higgins Sr., founder of Higgins Brick and Tile Co. a family operated industry that has grown since 1929 into one of the largest and most important of its kind in Southern California.

The company now operates three yards with headquarters at 2217 W. 174th St. on a 22-acre site. Other plants are located at 2600 Colorado St. in Santa Monica and at 4700 Roma Ave. in Monterey Park. A site of 126 acres for another Higgins yard recently was acquired near Chino.

Today the company is headed by Mrs. Mamie Higgins, widow of the founder as president, her two sons, J. R. "Bob" Higgins Jr. and Walter T. who serve as vice presidents and Mrs. Winifred Higgins Loughborough, secretary-treasurer.

Vast Output

Present capacity of the company is approximately 16 million bricks per year. Because of the seasonal character of the business employment fluctuates but, presently, is moving upward to meet the demand of numerous big structures in Torrance and the Los Angeles area. An idea of the magnitude of the company's operation may be understood by its \$250,000 annual gas bill incurred in the outdoor baking process.

Higgins products will go into the construction of many of the buildings at the new Del Amo shopping center. The new Tishman building on Wilshire is one of the larger buildings using Higgins bricks as well as a new State building at the Civic Center.

"There is no section of the country with a greater future than Southern California," J. R. Higgins Jr., observes. "Business is good in our industry and there is every prospect that it will be better. We feel that it is a time for justified optimism. Anyone who sells Southern California and the U. S. A. short is only harming himself. We can all look forward to better and better times in California."

our client and bring all our specialized skills to bear on his marketing job."

The firm now is conducting advertising programs for industry and the South Bay area.



HIGGINS HEADQUARTERS . . . Torrance office of the Higgins Brick and Tile Co. at 2217 W. 174th St. from which the company's operations are controlled. Here company officials have their offices which also serve as unique and interesting showcases for the use of brick on walls and fireplaces.



POPULAR SPOT . . . Civic organizations from throughout the Torrance area enjoy the civic-mindedness of the owners of Higgins Brick and Tile Co. Here is an interior view of the special recreation building at the Higgins office which is regularly used by Boy Scouts and other organizations. Use of the quarters is free and there is no restriction other than the responsibility of the users. It has been the site of political meeting of both major parties, of local groups, church organizations representing every creed — and even for fashion shows.

Congratulations
To The
Torrance Herald
On Its
44th Anniversary

We at Hi-Shear and Transland are proud to play a role in the industrial growth of the City of Torrance and in the development of the Torrance Municipal Airport. We bring to Torrance a portion of Southern California's biggest business, the aircraft and missile industry.

Our high strength fasteners at Hi-Shear are used by every major airframe manufacturer in the nation for military and commercial aircraft and principal missiles.

Transland is the largest producer in the nation of equipment for aerial dust and spray aircraft and in addition is producing the Ag-2 airplane designed expressly for agricultural and forestry work.

Our fasteners and agricultural aircraft products have been developed by the skilled talents of our employees, all residents of the City of Torrance and neighboring communities.

**HI-SHEAR
RIVET TOOL COMPANY**
and
TRANSLAND AIRCRAFT
located at
Torrance Municipal Airport

**TWO-YEAR-OLD FIRM
ASSISTS INDUSTRIES**

A two-year-old-firm which is growing with the area is John Popovich and Associates, industrial advertising firm, which will move into new and larger quarters on May 1.

The partners, John Popovich and John Stuteville, both of whom have considerable advertising agency experience, report that their billings are doubled over last year's and anticipate further growth this year.

New Home

Having outgrown its present location at 1733 Border Ave., the firm will move to the top suite of offices in the new Woolley Building, 2271 Torrance Blvd., on May 1.

The firm began by producing brochures for industry and has since added complete advertising and marketing services for the use of its clients.

Industry Aided

"Our function is to help industry effectively reach its market," said Stuteville. "We do this by preparing catalogs, brochures, mailing lists, and general campaigns for our clients. We have a staff of diversified specialists who combine their knowledge. We are the personal representative of

Glide Easy Specializes in Precision Machined Material

Under the guidance of George B. McWilliams, president, and Frank Van De Water, general plant manager, Glide Easy Manufacturing has expanded rapidly in the supply of precision machined aircraft parts to major aircraft companies throughout the United States and Canada, and now occupies 72,000 square feet of building space at 551 S. Arlington Ave. in Torrance.

Glide Easy specializes in intricate spar milling, duplicating and profiling, most of which is accomplished on special machines designed by Van De Water, who is also chief plant engineer and sales manager for the firm.

Makes Weird Shapes

One particular machine, designed and patented by Glide Easy, is called the Swarf Mill. This machine turns out weird shapes of machined products to an exact accuracy that conforms to the forward approach and ahead in this modern age of advanced planning and production.

The rise-and-fall spar mills were designed and built by Glide Easy to increase production and improve quality, along with special attention to the simplicity of operation and tooling. These are huge rugged machines of high speed production that are conceded to do the finest aircraft spar milling in the country.

Develops New Products

A new product of Glide Easy is now also on the market—the G.E.M. milling machine vise, another design of Van De Water. This vise was created to meet the needs of machine production where holding devices of enormous rigidity are required for accurate machining and where elimination of vibration greatly increases the life of cutting tools.

Both vise jaws are adjustable are their opening capacity is about double that of standard mill vises. The husky jaws will not wear out of square under severe loads. All G.E.M. vises are matched—the thickness of the vise beds are hardened and ground to a tolerance .0003th of an inch plus or minus — for multiple vise setups.

Fixture Costs Reduced

The unique design of the G.E.M. vise also reduces the cost of special fixtures. By using cast aluminum bars between the vise jaws — bolted either to the jaws or the vise bed and machined to the desired shape—creates a permanent, inexpensive fixture of exact precision that will not warp, thus providing a substantial saving on setup time, tooling costs, and storage space.

The G.E.M. vise is expected to receive an enthusiastic acceptance by the machine trade. Glide Easy uses more than 200 of these vises in their Torrance plant — an important part of their success in modern job shop machining.

Most of Glide Easy personnel is made up of top engineers, toolmakers, and skilled machinists who have been with the company for many years. The very best in machine equipment and tooling, combined with highly trained engineers and machine operators go hand in hand with the integrity and reputation of this expanding company.

Hair Named to Ryan Board of Directors

Arthur J. Hair of Los Angeles has been named to the board of directors of the Ryan Aeronautical Co. to fill the vacancy created by the recent resignation of Melvin H. Lockett, according to T. Claude Ryan, president.

Hair is a veteran tax attorney and has been prominent in Southern California business and professional circles for many years. Lockett, who is a partner in the accounting firm of Mattison, Thomas and Lockett, has served as Ryan board member since 1950.



KEEPING IN STEP WITH THE PROGRESS OF TORRANCE, GLIDE EASY MANUFACTURING CONTINUES TO GROW IN THE FIELD OF SUPPLYING INTRICATE AIRCRAFT PARTS AND SPECIAL DESIGN TOOLS AND MACHINERY TO MAJOR AIRCRAFT COMPANIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

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